

Cedar River Anadromous Fish Committee

SUMMARY MEETING MINUTES

May 16, 2002

Meeting Time 9:00 AM- 1:00 PM

Meeting Location:

Metering Building, Second Floor Conference Room

SPU Operations Control Center

2700 Airport Way South

Seattle, WA

Members and Alternates Present: Bruce Bachen (SPU), Tim Romanski (USFWS), Steve Foley (WDFW), Paul Seidel (WDFW), Tom Sibley (NMFS), Dennis Moore (Muckleshoot Tribe), Bill Robinson (Trout Unlimited), Frank Urabeck (NW Marine Trade Association), Sam Wright (WA Trout), Bill McKay (Puget Sound Anglers), Chuck Wischman (Puget Sound Anglers)

Other Participants: Chuck Johnson (WDFW) and Paul Faulds (SPU)

I. Call to order

Bruce called the meeting together at 9:08 AM.

II. Approval of agenda

Frank asked Bruce to add Lake Washington Derby under information and discussion items and members approved the agenda.

III. Minutes review and approval for March 14, 2002, March 21, 2002, and April 18, 2002 meetings

Frank suggested some minor changes to minutes from March 14, 2002 after which members approved all three sets of meeting minutes. Bruce noted that the current AFC agenda and all summary minutes are available on the AFC web site and he asked Paul F. to email the address to members.

IV. Lake Washington Research 2002

Bruce opened this agenda item by explaining that to better understanding of the capabilities of the Lake Washington to support large numbers of juvenile sockeye and to better understand the zooplankton forage base, the HCP provides for up to \$536,000 to study and monitor zooplankton composition, abundance, and distribution. To date, the HCP has funded intensive zooplankton sampling during the early lake entry period as well as, a fall survey to enumerate and assess sockeye and smelt populations. This project was used to complement other funding sources from King County and a private foundation. Dan Schindler, a co-investigator with David Beauchamp at the U.W., is receiving ongoing private support for regular zooplankton sampling at 3 stations in Lake Washington. This work continues the long-term monitoring work done by Dr. Edmondson. One result of Dave Beauchamp study was the identification of Cyclops as

an important diet item for juvenile sockeye in the spring as they begin rearing in Lake Washington. These results have brought into question whether funds should be spent on intensive plankton sampling or perhaps funding would be better spent on other monitoring, such as fall and spring presmolt surveys, which are not funded through the HCP. Tom Quinn provided funding to do the presmolt survey this spring, but does not have continuing funding to do additional surveys. Bruce recommended that the committee consider using HCP Year-2 zooplankton funding (\$45,000) to support presmolt surveys and a evaluation of the methods used for conducting these surveys. Committee members raised questions that required further information and no action was taken.

V. Interim mitigation program for coho, chinook and steelhead

Discussion and prioritization of potential interim mitigation projects for steelhead

Bruce reviewed the process by which the AFC is trying to determine how best to spend funding under the interim mitigation program for coho, chinook and steelhead. After reviewing a wide range of alternatives, the AFC indicated that issues related to steelhead recovery were a high priority for further work and identified several areas to focus on (i.e., genetics, predation, life history strategies, and hybridization of cutthroat and steelhead). The committee discussed the next step that involves determining specific questions or research areas that need to be pursued. Plans were made to invite specialists in genetics and field research to the next meeting.

Discussion with Parties on interim program

Bruce noted that next Wednesday the Parties to the LMA will be meeting to discuss instream flow and mitigation topics, including the interim mitigation program. Based on this morning's discussion and previous discussions, he will report to the Parties on the limited success in defining specific opportunities for funding under this program and state that it will be difficult to recommend a interim strategy by the deadline on how remaining funding should be utilized. This suggests that there is a good chance that the default provisions in the LMA will take effect where the remaining funds would be used for habitat acquisition. Some Committee members disagreed and suggested ranking projects and focus on genetic and predation studies related to steelhead.

VI. Cedar River sockeye hatchery program

Measures to protect the interim hatchery spring water supply following fish passage over the aqueduct

Bruce reported that with the expected completion of fish passage at the aqueduct crossing this summer returning adult sockeye will have close access to the interim hatchery raising the potential for IHN virus to contaminate the interim hatchery water supply. WDFW and SPU are collaborating to protect the water supply in time for this year's sockeye return.

Update on June 10, 2002 meeting and discuss hatchery program

Bruce mentioned the June 10th meeting will be held in the OCC lecture room. SPU is expecting a larger than normal turnout from agencies and special interest groups. The discussion questions were emailed to members and the authors of the program document.

The meeting will offer the authors an opportunity to respond to comments and questions voiced by AFC members and engage in brief discussions concerning each topic.

VII. Landsburg fish passage update

Bruce explained the fish passage project is in the final bidding stage and construction trailers are being setup onsite. SPU is considering a groundbreaking ceremony for June 26th or 27th. All permits for the project have been issued to SPU.

VIII. Public comment (scheduled for 11:30)

There were no public comments.

IX. Information and discussion items

Fishing Derby

Frank presented members with information on a proposed multi-species fishing derby for Lake Washington during the free fishing weekend in June 2003. The derby is being viewed as an opportunity to heighten awareness of the presence of species that prey on salmon and to encourage fishing and boating activity.

Genetics study

Bruce updated members on the HCP requirements for genetic study of wild and supplemental sockeye. The U.W. was funded to study genetic samples collected from sockeye on the lower, middle, and upper Cedar River. The objective of the study was to identify if there are subpopulations of sockeye in the river.

Chinook report for brood year 2001

Steve reported the chinook report would be out any day following comments from King County. The information in the report needs to be provided to NMFS and Hal Michael (WDFW) so a report of the effects of the weir protocols on chinook can be completed. King County has expressed interest in the results during discussion of the permit renewal process.

Expected sockeye return and setting egg take goals for 2002

Steve said the forecast for 2002 based on fry estimates is a return of 189,000. At the next regularly scheduled AFC meeting the egg take goal for the hatchery will be set.

X. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 12:25 PM.